

The City Truancy Court is a joint effort of the following agencies to reduce truancy:

- ♣ St. Louis Public Schools
- ♣ Family Court – 22<sup>nd</sup> Circuit
- ♣ St. Louis Police Department
- ♣ Huddleston Baptist Family Services

The project is supported by funds from the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant, U.S. Dept. of Justice, OJJDP, the Missouri Dept. of Public Safety, St. Louis Public Schools and the Family Court.

### Helpful Resources

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri  
4232 Forest Park Blvd.  
314-534-4200

Missouri Children's Division  
(Formerly known as DFS)  
Abuse/Neglect Hotline  
1-800-392-3738

Life Crisis (referral and help line)  
314-647-4357

Police Department/Juvenile Division  
314-444-5327

Dial Help  
314-371-4357

Housing Resource Center  
314-771-2273

For further information  
please call  
**Joli Baker, Supervisor**  
**Family Court Truancy**  
**Initiative Project**  
**314-552-2536**

**Family Court – Juvenile Division**  
Main Court  
920 North Vandeventer Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108  
(314) 552-2000  
(314) 552-2260 (Fax)  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday (Except Holidays)



If you need assistance or an accommodation in order to participate in these court services, please contact:

**THE AMERICANS with  
DISABILITY COORDINATOR,  
JANICE KOCH**

at  
920 North Vandeventer Ave  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108  
or by telephone  
VOICE (314) 552-2118  
TDD (314) 531-6158

# St. Louis City's Truancy Court



1430 Olive Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Judge  
Bettye Battle-Turner

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### What is the City Truancy Court?

The Truancy Court is where parents are held accountable in a Court of law for their children's truancy.

### Why was I referred to City Truancy Court?

You were referred to the Truancy Court due to your child(ren) being truant (having unexcused and/or undocumented absences).

*Children under age 16 must attend school – it's the law.*

### What happens at Court?

At your first Court appearance you will enter the Courtroom with the other newly referred parents and children. The Judge will explain the Truancy Ordinance and what the possible consequences could be.

Your child is expected to attend the first Court appearance. Thereafter, your child's appearance will be on an as needed basis.

If you fail to appear, a warrant for your arrest will be issued. Upon your arrest, you will be required to pay a \$500.00 cash bond.

If you fail to appear on subsequent Court dates, a *capias* warrant will be issued. Marshals will seek out parents and jail them at the City's Medium Security Institution (Workhouse) until the next Truancy Court date.

### What is the Truancy Ordinance?

It says that a parent, guardian, or other person who has control or custody of a child between the ages of 7 and 16 must have that child enrolled and attending school daily.

To knowingly permit a child to not attend school, without a legitimate, documented excuse, is against the law.

*Any person convicted of a violation of this law can be fined \$25.00 for each day the child is truant or jailed up to 90 days.*

Can I be fined because my child has been truant?

Yes. The law allows the City of St. Louis to assess a fine of \$25.00 a day for each occurrence. For example, if your child misses 10 unexcused days, it can result in you being fined \$250.00.

### Am I entitled to an attorney?

Yes. At anytime, you may hire your own private attorney who can represent you at any court appearance.

If your case goes to a "Show Cause Hearing" or trial, you are entitled to an attorney that is provided by the Court if you meet financial eligibility requirements.

If my case goes to trial and I loose, what happens next?

A parent may be sent directly to the City's Medium Security Institution (Workhouse) and/or assessed a fine of \$25.00 per day that their child was truant from school.

